

Plan No. 3 of 1946, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, which provided that mineral development on such lands shall be authorized by Secretary of the Interior only when he is advised by Secretary of Agriculture that such development will not interfere with purposes for which land was acquired and only in accordance with such conditions as may be specified by Secretary of Agriculture in order to protect such purposes.

For provisions concerning crediting and distribution of revenues and access to title records, see text of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946.

Functions of Secretary of the Interior under section 402 of Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1946, with respect to use and disposal from lands under jurisdiction of Secretary of Agriculture of those mineral materials which Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to dispose of from other lands under his jurisdiction under sections 601 to 604 and 611 to 615 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining, transferred to Secretary of Agriculture, see Pub. L. 86-509, June 11, 1960, 74 Stat. 205, set out as a note under section 2201 of Title 7, Agriculture.

**§ 521. Lands acquired to be reserved, held, and administered as national forest lands; designation**

Subject to the provisions of section 519 of this title the lands acquired under this Act shall be permanently reserved, held, and administered as national forest lands under the provisions of section 471<sup>1</sup> of this title and acts supplemental to and amendatory thereof. And the Secretary of Agriculture may from time to time divide the lands acquired under this Act into such specific national forests and so designate the same as he may deem best for administrative purposes.

(Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, § 11, 36 Stat. 963.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, means act Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, 36 Stat. 961, popularly known as the Weeks Law, which enacted this section, former sections 513 and 514 of this title, and sections 515 to 519, 552, and 563 of this title and amended sections 480 and 500 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 552 of this title and Tables.

Section 471 of this title, referred to in text, was in the original a reference to section 24 of act Mar. 3, 1891, ch. 561, 26 Stat. 1103, and was repealed by Pub. L. 94-579, title VII, § 704(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2792.

**§ 521a. Administration, management, and consolidation of certain lands**

In order to facilitate the administration, management, and consolidation of the national forests, all lands of the United States within the exterior boundaries of national forests which were or hereafter are acquired for or in connection with the national forests or transferred to the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, for administration and protection substantially in accordance with national forest regulations, policies, and procedures, excepting (a) lands reserved from the public domain or acquired pursuant to laws authorizing the exchange of land or timber reserved from or part of the public domain, and (b) lands within the official limits of towns or cities, notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, are made subject to the Weeks

Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 961), as amended, and to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to national forest lands acquired thereunder: *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed as (1) affecting the status of lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture under the Act of June 24, 1954 (68 Stat. 270), and which are revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, administered as national forest lands, or (2) changing the disposition of revenues from or authorizing the exchange of the lands, or the timber thereon, described in the Act of February 11, 1920 (ch. 69, 41 Stat. 405), the Act of September 22, 1922 (ch. 407, 42 Stat. 1019), and the Act of June 4, 1936 (ch. 494, 49 Stat. 1460). (Pub. L. 85-862, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1571.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, referred to in text, is act Mar. 1, 1911, ch. 186, 36 Stat. 961, which enacted former sections 513 and 514 and sections 515 to 519, 521, 552, and 563 of this title and amended sections 480 and 500 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 552 of this title and Tables.

Act June 24, 1954, referred to in text, is act June 24, 1954, ch. 357, 68 Stat. 270, which is classified principally to subchapter III (§ 2631 et seq.) of chapter 44 of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

Act February 11, 1920, referred to in text, related to exchanges of lands in or adjacent to Siuslaw National Forest and was not classified to the Code. See Codification note set out under sections 486a to 486w of this title.

Act September 22, 1922, referred to in text, is classified to section 487 of this title.

Act June 4, 1936, referred to in text, is classified to section 487a of this title.

**§ 521b. Report of Secretary of Agriculture prior to purchase or exchange of land; contents; waiting period**

For purposes of providing information that will aid the Congress in its oversight responsibilities and improve the accountability of expenditures for the acquisition of forest land, the Secretary of Agriculture may not hereafter enter into any land purchase or exchange relating to the National Forest System of \$150,000 or more for the types of lands which have been heretofore approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission until after 30 days from the date upon which a detailed report of the facts concerning such proposed purchase or transfer is submitted to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate or such earlier time as may be approved by both such committees. Such report shall contain at least the following:

- (1) guidelines utilized by the Secretary in determining that the land should be acquired;
- (2) the location and size of the land;
- (3) the purchase price of the land and the criteria used by the Secretary in determining such price;
- (4) the person from whom the land is being acquired; and
- (5) any adjustment made by the Secretary of relative value pursuant to section 1716(f)(2)(B)(ii) of title 43.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

(Pub. L. 94-588, §17(b), Oct. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 2962; Pub. L. 100-409, §6, Aug. 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 1090; Pub. L. 103-437, §6(r), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4587.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Forest Reservation Commission, referred to in text, was abolished and the functions thereof were transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture by section 17(a)(1) of Pub. L. 94-588, Oct. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 2961.

##### AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-437 in introductory provisions substituted “Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate” for “Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate”.

1988—Pub. L. 100-409 substituted “\$150,000” for “\$25,000” in introductory provisions and added par. (5).

#### § 521c. Definitions

For purposes of sections 521c to 521i of this title—

(1) the term “person” includes any State or any political subdivision or entity thereof;

(2) the term “interchange” means a land transfer in which the Secretary and another person exchange titles to lands or interests in lands of approximately equal value where the Secretary finds that such a value determination can be made without a formal appraisal and under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

(Pub. L. 97-465, §1, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2535.)

#### § 521d. Sale, exchange, or interchange of National Forest System land

##### (a) Conveyance authority; consideration

The Secretary is authorized, when the Secretary determines it to be in the public interest—

(1) to sell, exchange, or interchange by quitclaim deed, all right, title, and interest, including the mineral estate, of the United States in and to National Forest System lands described in section 521e of this title; and

(2) to accept as consideration for the lands sold, exchanged, or interchanged other lands, interests in lands, or cash payment, or any combination of such forms of consideration, which, in the case of conveyance by sale or exchange, is at least equal in value, including the mineral estate, or, in the case of conveyance by interchange, is of approximately equal value, including the mineral estate, to the lands being conveyed by the Secretary.

##### (b) Inclusion of terms, covenants, conditions, and reservations

###### (1) In general

The Secretary shall insert in any such quitclaim deed such terms, covenants, conditions, and reservations as the Secretary deems necessary to ensure protection of the public interest, including protection of the scenic, wildlife, and recreation values of the National Forest System and provision for appropriate public access to and use of lands within the System.

#### (2) Limitation

Paragraph (1) shall not be applicable to deeds issued by the Secretary to lands outside the boundary of units of the National Forest System.

#### (c) Disposition of proceeds

##### (1) Deposit in Sisk fund

The net proceeds derived from any sale or exchange conducted under paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of section 521e of this title shall be deposited in the fund established under section 484a of this title.

##### (2) Use

Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary until expended for—

(A) the acquisition of land or interests in land for administrative sites for the National Forest System in the State from which the amounts were derived;

(B) the acquisition of land or interests in land for inclusion in the National Forest System in that State, including land or interests in land that enhance opportunities for recreational access; or

(C) the reimbursement of the Secretary for costs incurred in preparing a sale conducted under the authority of section 521e of this title if the sale is a competitive sale.

(Pub. L. 97-465, §2, Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2535; Pub. L. 115-334, title VIII, §8621(c), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4852.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334, §8621(c)(1)–(3), designated first sentence as subsec. (a) and inserted subsec. heading, designated second sentence as par. (1) of subsec. (b), inserted subsec. and par. headings, and substituted “covenants” for “convenants”, and designated third sentence as par. (2) of subsec. (b), inserted par. heading, and substituted “Paragraph (1) shall not” for “The preceding sentence shall not”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-334, §8621(c)(4), added subsec. (c).

#### § 521e. Small parcels and road rights-of-way

The National Forest System lands which may be sold, exchanged, or interchanged under sections 521c to 521i of this title are those the sale or exchange of which is not practicable under any other authority of the Secretary, which have a value as determined by the Secretary of not more than \$500,000, and which are—

(1) parcels of forty acres or less which are interspersed with or adjacent to lands which have been transferred out of Federal ownership under the mining laws and which are determined by the Secretary, because of location or size, not to be subject to efficient administration;

(2) parcels of ten acres or less which are encroached upon by improvements occupied or used under claim or color of title by persons to whom no advance notice was given that the improvements encroached or would encroach upon such parcels, and who in good faith relied upon an erroneous survey, title search, or